Improvement of National Highway No. 63

2724. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware of the fact that the newly declared National Highway No. 63 requires urgent improvements in phase I and II;

(b) if so, whether M/s. RITES has worked out cost of the estimated project;

(c) what will be the approximate cost of improvement;

(d) whether Karnataka Government has requested that the above project may be posed for external aid; and

(e) If so, the details of action taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Improvement of a length of 132 Kms. of National Highway No. 63 from Ankola to Hubli in Phase I is already completed under ADB loan assistance at a cost of Rs. 96.02 crore.

(b) and (c) The cost of improvement of another 238 Kms. of National Highway-63 from Hubli to Andhra Pradesh border in phase II has been estimated as Rs. 171.10 Crore by M/s. RITES.

(d) and (e) The projects which are likely to be taken up in near future with External Aid have already been identified and this project does not figure amongst them.

Land Acquisition Proceedings in Link Road-II of NH-49

2725. SHRI C.O. POULOSE : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government are aware about the fact that the acquisition proceedings for laying Link Road-II of National Highway No. 49 (Kochi-Madurai Highway) through Wards 25 to 28 of Tripunithura Municipality are going on in which 128 families are facing the threat of eviction and against this people's movement is going on;

(b) if so, the reasons for not considering the alignment proposed by Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA); and

(c) why the alignment proposed and marked in 1994, mostly through vacant lands are changed in 1997 and submitted for Government's approval rejecting the three other proposals ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) to (c) Land acquisition process along the approved alignment of Kochi-Madurai Highway of National Highway-49 has been initiated by the State Government. There was no alignment proposal of Greater Cochin Development Authority (GCDA) at the time of finalisation of the alignment of National Highway-49. The alignment was approved based on the detailed survey and investigation done by the State PWD taking into account the techno-economic aspects of the alternative proposals.

Development of Inland Waterways

2726. SHRI RAMACHANDRAIAH RUMANDLA : Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government proposed to develop inland waterways in a big way to relieve pressure on the roads;

(b) if so, the details of plans of navigable waterways to be used as mode of transport; and

(c) the feasibility of developing Kakinada Chennai navigable project as mode of inland transport?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (DR. DEBENDRA PRADHAN) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The National Transport Policy Committee has identified the following ten waterways of the country as having potential for declaration and development as national waterways :—

(i) The Ganga-Bhagirathi-Hooghly river system
(ii) The Brahmaputra
(iii) The West Coast Canal
(iv) The Sunderbans
(v) The Godavari
(vi) The Krishna
(vii) The Mahanadi
(viii) The Narmada
(ix) The Mandovi, Zuar, rivers and Cumberjua Canal in Goa
(x) The Tapi.